

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/086,886

Examiner

Dah-Wei D Yuan

Applicant(s)

BANNO ET AL.

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/26/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 5-9.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

**PREGEL COMPOSITIONS FOR POLYMER GEL ELECTROLYTES, METHOD OF
DEHYDRATING PREGEL COMPOSITIONS, SECONDARY CELL, AND
ELECTRICAL DOUBLE-LAYER CAPACITOR**

Examiner: Yuan S.N. 10/086,886 Art Unit: 1745 August 18, 2004

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 28, 2004 has been entered. Claims 2-4,10,11 were cancelled. Claims 1,5 were amended.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S.C. code not included in this action can be found in the prior Office Action issued on March 26, 2004.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David Murphy on August 19, 2004. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 8, line 4, after "claims" delete "1 to 6" and add "1,5,6"

In claim 9, line 4, after "claims" delete "1 to 6" and add "1,5,6"

Claim Rejections

5. The claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, on claim 10 are withdrawn because the claim has been cancelled. The claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Takeuchi et al. on claims 1-6,8,9 are withdrawn because the independent claim 1 has been amended.

Reasons for Allowance

6. Claims 1,5-9 are allowed. The invention of independent claim 1 recites a pregel composition comprising at least one linear or branched polymeric compound and a compound having a reactive double bond, wherein the composition has a moisture content of not more than 100 ppm and the linear or branched polymeric compound is one type of polymer selected from the class consisting of (a) hydroxyalkyl polysaccharide derivative, (b) a polyvinyl alcohol derivative and (c) a polyglycidol derivative. The closest prior art of record, Takeuchi et al., does not teach or suggest the linear or branched polymeric compound is selected from the class as recited in the claim. The invention of independent claim 5 recites a pregel composition comprising at least one isocyanate compound which, when added to an organic electrolyte solution of an electrolyte salt in a non-aqueous solvent, causes the solution to gel and form a polymer gel electrolyte, wherein the composition has a moisture content of not more than 100

ppm. The closest prior art of record, Takeuchi et al., does not teach or suggest the use of at least one isocyanate compound in a pregel composition, which has a moisture content of not more than 100 ppm. The invention of independent claim 7 recites a method of dehydrating a pregel composition by subjecting the composition to azeotropic distillation in the presence of an entrainer. The moisture content of the pregel composition is lowered to not more than 1,000 ppm. The closest prior art of record, Takeuchi et al., does not teach or suggest the use of azeotropic distillation to reduce the moisture content in the pregel composition for an electrochemical device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dah-Wei D. Yuan whose telephone number is (571) 272-1295. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick J. Ryan, can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Application/Control Number: 10/086,886
Art Unit: 1745

Page 4 of 4

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dah-Wei D. Yuan
August 19, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dahwei Yuan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.